

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2003, no claims have been cancelled, amended or added. Claims 1-67 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application is requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections

A. The Office Action Rejections

In paragraphs (8)-(9) of the Office Action, claims 1-6, 21-29, 33-39, and 60-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Amado, U.S. Patent No. 5,701,400 (Amado). In paragraphs (10)-(11) of the Office Action, claims 7-10, 30-32, and 40-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amado in view of Qiang Shen et al., "A Modular Approach to Generating Fuzzy Rules with Reduced Attributes for the Monitoring of Complex Systems," May 2000 (Shen), Alexios Chouchoulas, Division of Informatics, Informatics Research Report EDI-INF-RR-0122 (Chouchoulas), and further in view of Ogilvie, U.S. Patent No. 6,324,650 (Ogilvie).

Applicant's attorney respectfully traverses these rejections.

B. The Applicant's Independent Claims

Independent claim 1 is directed to a knowledge-based system adapted to provide a recommendation tailored to a consumer, the system comprising:

a knowledge base containing historical data;

rule extraction means for extracting a ruleset from the knowledge base;

a rules database for holding the ruleset;

codifying means for codifying the requirements of the consumer;

recommendation means for applying the ruleset to the codified consumer requirements and generating the recommendation accordingly;

rule induction means for providing learning inputs to the knowledge base from a plurality of human experts as they advise and make real-life recommendations to actual or imaginary consumers, the learning inputs reflecting the recommendations made by the experts and the requirements of the consumers that they have advised; and

update means for running the rule extraction means on the knowledge base to refresh the rules database by extracting an updated ruleset from the knowledge base for application by the recommendation means to the requirements of future consumers.

Independent claim 35 is directed to a method of building a knowledge-based system for providing a recommendation tailored to a consumer, the system operating by extracting rules from a knowledge base and applying the extracted rules to codified consumer requirements to generate the recommendation accordingly; the method comprising:

providing learning inputs to the knowledge base from a plurality of human experts as they advise and make real-life recommendations to actual or imaginary consumers, the inputs reflecting the recommendations made by the experts and the requirements of the consumers that they have advised; and

after learning inputs have been provided to the knowledge base, extracting updated rules from the knowledge base for use in generating recommendations tailored to the requirements of future consumers.

Independent claim 60 is directed to a method of operating a knowledge-based system for providing a recommendation tailored to a consumer, the method comprising:

extracting rules from a knowledge base and applying the extracted rules to codified consumer requirements to generate the recommendation accordingly;

providing learning inputs to the knowledge base from a plurality of human experts as they advise and make real-life recommendations to actual or imaginary consumers, the inputs reflecting the recommendations made by the experts and the requirements of the consumers that they have advised; and

after learning inputs have been provided to the knowledge base, extracting updated rules from the knowledge base for use in generating recommendations tailored to the requirements of future consumers.

C. The Amado Reference

Amado describes a system for applying artificial intelligence technology to data stored in databases and generates diagnostics that are user definable interpretations of information in the database. The diagnostics are stored in a database which can be queried with downdrilling to the associated data which generated the diagnostic. A set of bidirectional links is maintained between selected data items in the first database and the corresponding diagnostics in the second database.

The system acts as an information compiler in developing a map of the raw data dimension into the structured dimension of intelligent interpretation of the data in the diagnostic database.

D. The Shen Reference

Shen describes a modular approach to generating fuzzy rules with reduced attributes for the monitoring of complex systems.

E. The Chouchoulas Reference

Chouchoulas describes incremental feature selection based on rough set theory.

F. The Ogilvie Reference

Ogilvie describes methods and systems for controlling the disclosure of sensitive information. Disclosure is controlled in the sense that (a) the information is not disclosed until predefined conditions are met, such as the passage of a certain time without an authorized update request for secrecy, (b) copies of the information are protected by encryption and by widespread, unpredictable storage, so that at least one copy will be available when disclosure is required, (c) the information is kept secret until disclosure is required, and (d) when disclosure is required, the information is sent to predefined destinations such as email addresses or posted to web sites, in a predefined format.

G. The Applicant's Claims Are Patentable Over The References

Applicant's invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 9, 11 and 17, is patentable over the references, because the claims recite limitations not found in the references.

Specifically, nothing in the description of Amado teaches the combination of limitations of Applicant's independent claims directed to providing learning inputs to the knowledge base from a plurality of human experts as they advise and make real-life recommendations to actual or imaginary consumers, the inputs reflecting the recommendations made by the experts and the requirements of the consumers that they have advised and, after learning inputs have been provided to the knowledge base, extracting updated rules from the knowledge base for use in generating recommendations tailored to the requirements of future consumers.

Instead, Amado only generally describes knowledge bases and database miners, but not the specific combination recited by Applicant's claims. Indeed, while Amado may discuss various

aspects of the Applicant's claims, nowhere does Amado bring all the disparate elements together to create a system as recited in Applicant's claims. Consequently, Amado does not anticipate or render obvious Applicant's claims.

Shen, Chouchoulas and Ogilvie fail to overcome the limitations of Amado. Recall that Shen, Chouchoulas and Ogilvie were cited only against dependent claims 7-20, 30-32 and 40-59, and were only relied upon to that extent.

Moreover, the various elements of Applicant's claimed invention together provide operational advantages over Amado. In addition, Applicant's invention solves problems not recognized by Amado.

Thus, Applicant's attorney submits that independent claims 1, 3, 9, 11, and 17 are allowable over Amado. Further, dependent claims 4-8 and 12-16 are submitted to be allowable over Amado in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 3, 9, 11, and 17, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 4-8 and 12-16 recite additional novel elements not shown by Coutts.

With regard to the rejection of claims 2-6, 21-29, 33-34, 36-39 and 61-67, and the Examiner's assertion that these claims "fail to add novelty to Applicant's claimed invention," without citing any documentary evidence in support of the assertion, Applicant's attorney traverses the rejection. Specifically, Applicant's attorney submits that the limitations of these claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by any prior art references. Certainly, the Amado reference does not support the assertion, since the Examiner admits (implicitly) that this reference does not teach or suggest the limitations found in the dependent claims. Further, Applicant's attorney submits that such "Official Notice" contradicts the guidelines set forth in M.P.E.P. §2144.03, since the facts asserted to be well-known are not capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known, and the Examiner cannot point to any evidence in the record to support the assertion. Consequently, in accordance with M.P.E.P. §2144.03, Applicant's attorney requests that the Examiner produce authority for his assertion or withdraw the assertion.

With regard to the rejection of claims 7-20, 30-32 and 40-59, and the Examiner's assertion that these claims are rendered obvious by the combination of Amado, Shen, Chouchoulas and Ogilvie, Applicant's attorney respectfully traverses this rejection. Specifically, Applicant's attorney asserts that the combination of references does not teach or suggest these limitations in the same context as Applicant's claims, and thus do not anticipate or render obvious Applicant's claims.

III. Conclusion

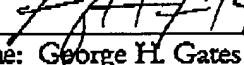
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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